

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a component of a door trim panel assembly for the interior of a vehicle, said method comprising the steps of:

actuating a core within a mold cavity so as to partition at least one area of said mold cavity to prevent a first molten thermoplastic material from completely filling said mold cavity;

injecting the first molten thermoplastic material having a predetermined density into a mold cavity so as to fill said mold cavity thereby forming a structural element having a class-A surface;

retracting the core within the mold cavity to provide at least one secondary void within said mold cavity; and

injecting a second molten thermoplastic material having a density less than the predetermined density of said first molten thermoplastic material into said secondary void of said mold cavity to form at least one soft-touch area having a class-A surface where said soft-touch area is bonded to and adjacent at least a portion of said structural element.

2. (Currently amended) The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein the step of retracting the core within the mold cavity further includes the step of permitting a predetermined lapse of time ~~prior~~ to permit said structural element to partially cure prior to retracting said retractable core.

3. (Currently amended) The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein said step of injecting a first thermoplastic material further includes the step of ~~defining~~ forming a substrate including said structural element having a plurality of sidewalls that ~~serve as the structural~~

~~element for~~ define an armrest, said second thermoplastic material bonded to ~~and adjacent at least a portion of~~ at least one of said sidewalls to define a soft-touch area on said armrest.

4. (Currently amended) The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein said step of injecting a first thermoplastic material further includes the step of ~~defining~~ forming a substrate ~~that serves as the~~ including said structural element ~~[[for]]~~that defines a bolster area, said second thermoplastic material bonded to ~~and adjacent~~ at least a portion of said bolster area to define a soft-touch area ~~on said substrate~~ thereon.

5. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 1 wherein the step of injecting a second molten thermoplastic material further includes injecting a thermoplastic material having different color than the color of said first molten thermoplastic material.

6. (Currently amended) A method of manufacturing a component of a door trim panel assembly for the interior of a vehicle, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a mold having first and second die halves and a core moveably supported relative to said die halves and disposed therebetween to define a first and second mold cavity between said moveable core and said first and second die halves;

injecting said first molten thermoplastic material having a predetermined density into said first mold cavity so as to fill said first mold cavity thereby forming a structural element having a class-A surface;

moving a core relative to said first and second die halves to define said second mold cavity; and

injecting a second molten thermoplastic material having a density less than the predetermined density of said first molten thermoplastic material into said second mold cavity thereby forming at least one soft-touch area having a class-A surface where said soft-touch area is bonded to and adjacent at least a portion of said structural element of said component.

7. (Currently amended) The method as set forth in claim 6 wherein the step of moving said core to define said second mold cavity further includes the step of permitting a predetermined lapse of time prior to injecting ~~[[a]]~~ said second molten thermoplastic material to permit said structural element to partially cure.

8. (Currently amended) The method as set forth in claim 6 wherein said step of injecting a first thermoplastic material further includes the step of ~~defining~~ forming a substrate including said structural element having a plurality of sidewalls that ~~serve as the structural element for~~ define an armrest, said second thermoplastic material bonded to ~~and adjacent at least a portion of~~ at least one of said sidewalls to define a soft-touch area on said armrest.

9. (Currently amended) The method as set forth in claim 6 wherein said step of injecting a first thermoplastic material further includes the step of ~~defining~~ forming a substrate ~~that serves as the~~ including said structural element ~~[[for]]~~ that defines a bolster area, said second thermoplastic material bonded to ~~and adjacent~~ at least a portion of said bolster area to define a soft-touch area ~~on said substrate~~ thereon.

10. (Currently amended) The method as set forth in claim ~~[[1]]~~6 wherein the step of injecting a second molten thermoplastic material further includes injecting a thermoplastic material having different color than the color of said first molten thermoplastic material.

11 – 16. (Withdrawn)

17. (New) A method of manufacturing a door trim panel assembly for the interior of a vehicle, said method comprising the steps of:

actuating a core within a mold cavity so as to partition at least one area of said mold cavity to prevent a first molten thermoplastic material from completely filling said mold cavity;

injecting the first molten thermoplastic material having a predetermined density into a mold cavity so as to fill said mold cavity thereby forming a substrate including at least one structural element, said substrate having a class-A surface;

retracting the core within the mold cavity to provide at least one secondary void within said mold cavity; and

injecting a second molten thermoplastic material having a density less than the predetermined density of said first molten thermoplastic material into said secondary void of said mold cavity to define a soft-touch area bonded to at least a portion of said structural element, said soft-touch area having a class-A surface.

18. (New) The method as set forth in claim 17 wherein the step of retracting the core within the mold cavity further includes the step of permitting a predetermined lapse of time prior to retracting said retractable core to permit said substrate to partially cure.

19. (New) The method as set forth in claim 17 wherein said step of injecting a first thermoplastic material further includes the step of forming said structural element to include a plurality of sidewalls that define an armrest within said substrate, said second thermoplastic material bonded to at least one of said sidewalls to define a soft-touch area on said armrest.

20. (New) The method as set forth in claim 17 wherein said step of injecting a first thermoplastic material further includes the step of forming said structural element to define a bolster area within said substrate, said second thermoplastic material bonded to at least a portion of said bolster area to define a soft-touch area on said bolster area.

21. (New) The method as set forth in claim 17 wherein the step of injecting a second molten thermoplastic material further includes injecting a thermoplastic material having different color than the color of said first molten thermoplastic material.